

## Message Text

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12

ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 SP-02 USIA-06 AID-05 EB-07

NSC-05 CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03

LAB-04 SIL-01 L-03 H-02 PA-01 PRS-01 NEA-10 OIC-02

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R 140509Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2978

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USLO PEKING

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 9468

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ESCAP, OCON, UR, CH

SUBJECT: ESCAP: SOVIET-CHINESE ARGUMENT OVER MEMBERSHIP  
IN ASIAN PACIFIC TELECOMMUNITY

REF: A) BANGKOK 8222, B) BANGKOK 23855 (NOTAL)

1. SOME SECRETARIAT OFFICIALS AND COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVES ARE STILL PUZZLING OVER REGIONAL MEMBERSHIP ISSUE RAISED BY USSR AND DESCRIBED REFTEL A. (ESCAP PRESS RELEASE ON THIS INCIDENT BEING SENT SEPARATELY).

2. SOVIETS WERE TOLD BEFOREHAND THAT UN LEGAL OFFICE OPINION WAS BEING SOUGHT AND THAT RULING, AS BEFORE, WOULD DECLARE SOVIETS TO BE NON REGIONAL MEMBERS UNDER ESCAP TERMS OF REFERENCE. NEVERTHELESS, SOVIETS PERSISTED IN CHALLENGING EXECUTIVE SECRETARY AND THEN  
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HAD TO HEAR HIM READ ADVERSE RULING IN ASIAN FORUM WHILE

CHINESE SAT SMILING IN FRONT OF THEM.

3. THERE WAS AN ARGUMENT WITHIN SOVIET DELEGATION ON PROPER TACTICS TO FOLLOW. THE RANKING MAN FROM MOSCOW, SOVIET DEPUTY REPRESENTATIVE V. L. BORISSOV, HEAD OF SECTION OF REGIONAL ECONOMIC ORGANIZATIONS, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, APPARENTLY WON OUT WITH HIS HARD LINE. ONE SOVIET ALIBI HEARD AFTER THIS INCIDENT WAS THAT SOVIETS WANTED QUOTE TO PROVOKE CHINESE UNQUOTE AND ALSO TO FOLLOW A CONSISTENT LINE CLAIMING REGIONAL MEMBERSHIP.

4. PROVOKING CHINESE WITH A LOSING PROPOSITION IS DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND BUT SOVIETS HAVE AT LEAST BEEN CONSISTENT. REFTEL B DESCRIBES SOVIET FAILURE LAST NOVEMBER TO RAISE THEIR STATUS FROM OBSERVERS TO FULL MEMBERS IN TYPHOON COMMITTEE.

5. ESCAP SECRETARIAT NOW EXPECTS SOVIETS WILL PURSUE THIS REGIONAL MEMBERSHIP ISSUE NEXT IN CCOP (COMMITTEE FOR COORDINATION OF JOINT PROSPECTING FOR MINERAL RESOURCES IN ASIAN OFFSHORE AREAS). THE ISSUE MAY ALSO BE PURSUED IN ECOSOC.

6. ONE FURTHER IRONY TO THIS WHOLE AFFAIR SHOULD BE NOTED. THE CHINESE WON HANDS DOWN ON BOTH OCCASIONS WHEN QUESTIONS OF MEMBERSHIP IN ASIAN PACIFIC TELECOMMUNITY WERE RAISED. UK GAVE UP ITS LONG ELABORATE ATTEMPT TO SECURE HONG KONG FULL MEMBERSHIP AFTER PRC FINALLY OPENLY DECLARED ITS OPPOSITION AND NOW THE SOVIETS HAVE ALSO LOST OUT. WHITEHOUSE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MEMBERSHIP, TELECOMMUNICATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
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**Draft Date:** 14 APR 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ShawDG  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Reference:** 76 BANGKOK 8222, 76 BANGKOK 23855  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ShawDG  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 04 MAY 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <04 MAY 2004 by CollinP0>; APPROVED <02 SEP 2004 by ShawDG>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ESCAP: SOVIET-CHINESE ARGUMENT OVER MEMBERSHIP IN ASIAN PACIFIC TELECOMMUNITY  
**TAGS:** OCON, ETEL, PFOR, UR, CH, TH, ESCAP  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006